

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1-7 and 9-10 as being anticipated by Formanski et al. under 35 USC §102(e) and of Claim 8 as being obvious over Formanski et al. in view of Erdle et al. under 35 USC §103(a) are traversed. Reconsideration of each of these rejections is respectfully requested.

One of the main objects of the present invention is prolonged service life. No such objective is present in the Formanski et al. patent. Instead, the system and method in that patent have increased efficiency as their goal by way of minimizing pressure. Although the Formanski et al. patent acknowledges a relationship between ambient temperature and a cooling system's capacity (see, e.g., col. 10, line 20), this relationship is used to match operating pressure of the fuel cell system with the prevailing system requirements and to provide compressed oxygen flow to the cathode inlet at the minimum required pressure that ensures fuel cell operation.

On the other hand, the present invention utilizes temperature difference to maintain the fuel cell in its "coldest" state during all phases of operation and loading. That is, the fuel cell achieves longer service life by virtue of being kept cool. Specifically, ambient temperature is used -- as it is not used in the Formanski et al. method -- to maintain at a minimum difference between that ambient temperature and the fuel cell operating temperature at a particular load. Thereby, as applicants have recognized, waste heat can be disposed of with

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minimum impact on the fuel cell's life. No such teaching or suggestion is found in the prior art, including in the Erdle et al. patent.

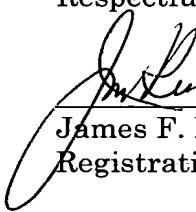
Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 038743.53123US).

Respectfully submitted,

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